



IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-5 (withdrawn).

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A line switching unit ~~as claimed in claim 8~~ for switching data received on an input line to a plurality of output lines based on line delay times of the plurality of output lines, said line switching unit comprising:

_____ means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines;

_____ means for allocating the received data from the input line to said plurality of output lines based on the measured delay times;

_____ a plurality of storing means, each corresponding to one of the plurality of output lines, for storing data allocated to the corresponding one of the plurality of output lines; and

_____ means responsive to the measured line delay times for controlling said allocation means to allocate the received data from the input line across the plurality of storing means based on the measured line delay times,

wherein said responsive means allocates to a first one of the output lines an amount of the received data from the input line, said amount corresponding to the measured line delay time of the first one of the output lines, and allocates subsequently received data from the input line to another of the output lines.

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10. (currently amended) A line switching unit for switching data received on an input line to one of a plurality of output lines based on line delay times of the plurality of output lines, said line switching unit comprising:

means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines;

means for allocating the received data from the input line to said plurality of output lines based on the measured line delay times;

a first line buffer for storing data allocated to a first one of the plurality of output lines;

a second line buffer for storing data allocated to the others of the plurality of output lines; and

means responsive to the measured line delay times for controlling said allocation means to provide the received data from the input line to said first line buffer up to a time corresponding to ~~the~~ measured line delay time of the first one of the plurality of output lines, and to provide subsequently received data from the input line to the second line buffer.

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